

SABIT STANDARDS IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

May 22, 2004 – June 19, 2004

The SABIT Standards Program, managed jointly by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), provides intensive training opportunities for standards and conformity assessment experts from Eurasia. The program offers in-depth training on effective and efficient practices of product and equipment standards and certification used in the United States as well as inspires confidence in U.S. products and services.

Scope and Mission of the Program

The Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) Standards in Building Construction Program is designed to provide 20 mid-to-senior building construction specialists from Eurasia one month of intensive exposure to U.S. practices in standards development, product certification, and laboratory accreditation, as well as offer site visits and direct interaction with U.S. construction material manufacturers, testing labs, and construction firms, as well as local, state, and federal government agencies.

The 18 delegates, screened and selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce and NIST will represent both national regulatory bodies, standards agencies and testing laboratories as well as private construction companies from up to twelve countries in Eurasia. The delegates are valuable contacts for U.S. companies looking to do business in Eurasia and many represent gatekeeper agencies, key to getting new products into the evolving markets of the region. *Biographical information for the delegation will be available in early April.*

Benefits of Participation

Participation in SABIT offers a unique opportunity for both U.S. companies and Eurasian delegates. These visits offer solid, practical experience for the Eurasian standards experts and give U.S. businesses an unparalleled opportunity to establish firsthand contacts key to working in the markets of Eurasia.

For companies that are not currently active in the region, participation in the program will enable them to learn about potential opportunities in Eurasia and establish valuable industry and government contacts.

SABIT is currently seeking U.S. hosts in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the San Francisco area to provide training for half- and full-day sessions in topics including standards development, product testing, quality control, environmental issues, code enforcement, and structural engineering. *A detailed list of possible training topics is attached to this flyer.*

Session Structure

This program will begin with a two-week session at NIST in the Washington, D.C. area, with government and industry association presentations and site visits, in addition to focused business roundtables and panel discussions (May 24 – June 4). The group will then travel to Pennsylvania, Delaware, and California for targeted site visits to U.S. companies, laboratories, and other host organizations (June 5 – June 18). In San Francisco, the group also will be attending the PCBC 2004 Homebuilding Expo.

Options for Training and Site Visits

U.S. companies are welcome to develop a training event or site visit that suits each host's needs.

Suggested models include:

- Speakers/presentations at your facility (SABIT can help arrange sites for presentations if your facility is unavailable)
- Manufacturing/testing tours
- Visits to construction sites
- Interactive discussion sessions with the delegates

Cost of Participation

SABIT will cover the majority of program costs for all delegates, including round-trip airfare to the United States, all domestic U.S. transportation, housing, insurance, per diem for meals and incidentals, and interpreters to travel with the group. In turn, U.S. host organizations are asked to cover all costs of the training they provide.

For More Information

To learn about this session and hosting opportunities, please contact SABIT Standards Program

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Topics to Be Covered in the SABIT Standards in Building Construction Program

This list is by no means exhaustive, but indicates some of the main areas of interest for the delegation. Host companies are invited to discuss these or other topics related to building construction, construction materials, or associated topics, including safety, environmental concerns, inspection/code enforcement, etc.

- International standards/ISO
- Standards development
- Certification
- Calibration
- Laboratory accreditation
- Legal metrology
- Quality systems
- The U.S. Regulatory System
- Market surveillance
- Manufacturing
- Building materials
- Climatic differences in building requirements
- Fire safety engineering
- Structural engineering for earthquake and wind
- Brick, cement, concrete, and metal construction
- Siding and adhesive
- Heat and hydro insulation materials
- Doors and windows
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Electrical code/Electrical safety
- Inspection and enforcement
- Product safety
- Consumer satisfaction
- Experience/Challenges in Eurasian Markets